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GLIMPSES OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE COAST FILES

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 26.—"Mrs. Roosevelt, the wife of the President, it is said dresses on \$300 a year—and she looks it."

This startling statement was made in the Southern Hotel by Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, wife of the president of the Illinois Central Railroad, leader of the New York four hundred and recognized as one of the "swellest" matrons at Newport. Mrs. Fish was talking about the gowns worn by American women. Continuing, Mrs. Fish said:

"I would not like to be the President or the President's wife. I should not like to have to eat with negroes. I do not believe in equality—it would never do. We cannot mix with the negro at all and negro equality will never come about. There will always be classes in this country. We are coming more and more to have an aristocracy and common people. I do not believe in being too democratic."

Reverting to the subject of gowns the grand dame continued: "I think that in dress the American women imitate Europe too much. American makers build just as handsome and as costly gowns as the Parisians and if some one would only start the pace American gowns would be worn."

Mrs. Fish, while making the statement, was compelled to naively admit that she had her own gowns built in Paris.

"I do not want to start the innovation, but if some one would start it I would follow," she continued. "You know how old Mrs. Astor is? Well, she's eighty. She's more than that, she's eighty-four. The poor old lady has one foot in the grave. Do you think I am her rival? I didn't know the newspapers out West printed silly things, just like New York papers, but I guess they do."

"Why is it that newspapers print such silly things continuously about society people and Newport and Harry Lehr? Harry Lehr is a very ordinary man. I mean that he is very unusual person. He is just like anybody else. I was at places where, it is said, he had monkeys as guests and I didn't see any monkeys. I never saw that bracelet and purse the papers said he wore on his wrist and I know he has not done any of the silly things charged to him. All society people know that such stories as these are not true, but still the papers keep on printing them and the sillier they are the more space they get. And then reporters come to me and seriously ask me if the stories are not true. Why just this morning there was a young man here who asked me if it was not true that the Astor baby had a golden cradle."

Mrs. Fish, who had punctuated her remarks with hearty laughter, seemed particularly amused at the golden cradle story.

"American women ought to go into politics," said she, "they are so clever it is a shame for them to have their brains on society. Did you ever stop to think how much influence women in high position could have in political affairs if she devoted her abilities to them? Why don't I go into politics? I have been trying to for two years. No, I wouldn't go to the polls as they now are and vote in a booth attached to the rear of some saloon and neither should respectable men. Such things should be changed. Some day conditions will be altered and then women will be able to vote and retain their self respect. Women should take part in the important affairs of the time and use their power for the good of the country."

In concluding the interview Mrs. Fish said that the leaders of the four hundred are just like other women. She happened to glance at her picture in a morning newspaper. A pained expression was noticeable at once and she turned to Miss Campton and said: "Just look at that hat!"

ARTIFICIAL DAYLIGHT.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 26.—Artificial daylight has been made a commercial reality. Charles M. Schwab, the steel king, has signed a contract for the illumination with the new light of his magnificent new mansion, covering a block on Riverside drive, New York.

This marks the realization of scientists' "dreams"—a light that will have all the qualities of the sun's rays. So wonderful is the light, so devoid of heat, so beautiful in the softness of its glow, so lacking in any element of danger under any and all conditions, that scientific men have unhesitatingly pronounced it perfection. Several oculists have even declared that the new light is less harmful to the eye than nature's illumination itself.

The inventor of this light, the introduction of which promises to affect a greater amount of invested capital than any other invention of the age, is D. McFarlane Moore, a native of Pennsylvania, and for a time a student in Lehigh University. The system, even in its early stage of laboratory experimenting, became known throughout the scientific world as the Moore system of electric tube lighting.

The electric wiring of houses is a thing of the past. The light is to be piped as gas and water are piped today.

Discussing his new light with The Call correspondent, Moore said: "The bona fide vacuum tube has always been associated with high voltages to properly operate it, and, although theoretically it has long been acknowledged to possess certain properties that indicated that it would be the light of the future, nevertheless the serious problem always presented itself as to how it could be made thoroughly commercial with its attendant high voltage."

"This problem I believe I have solved in my present electric tube lighting system by confining the high voltage entirely within a transformer case that is absolutely danger-proof, either to life or property."

TO PHOTOGRAPH WILD ANIMALS.

VANCOUVER (B. C.), September 27.—Captain Startar, a British scientist, has left Vancouver for the Cariboo district for the unique purpose of photographing wild animals in the woods where they are found. He is accompanied by John Pugh of this city, a guide of much experience, who has himself been successful in securing pictures of bears in wild condition. An effort will be made to photograph such animals as are difficult to approach, such as mountain sheep and goats, congars and the larger kind of deer.

Captain Startar's outfit includes the photographing apparatus, with long-distance lenses and powerful flash lights. He and Pugh will be gone several weeks, and will also visit the Chilcoten district, one of the best on the Coast for all kinds of game.

If this trip is successful an effort will be made by the agent of the London Bioscope Company to secure animated pictures of wild animals. He was in the city when Captain Startar and Pugh left, and made arrangements with this well-known guide.

LEIGH HUNT TO AID NEGROES.

TACOMA, September 27.—Leigh Hunt, the millionaire mining operator of Corea, and Booker T. Washington will meet in Africa some time next month, probably in Cairo, to perfect the details of a great colonization plan by which Hunt hopes to send several thousand negro families from the Southern States to the Soudan, where they are to engage in growing cotton and sugar cane on lands to be irrigated along the River Nile.

Hunt formerly lived in this State, and went to Corea after losing a fortune during the depression of ten years ago. The there obtained a concession for developing the gold mines which are making him a multi-millionaire. The Corean Emperor is his partner.

Hunt is now in Germany and Washington is in Europe. Before sailing last month Hunt was entertained at dinner at the White House by President Roosevelt. Hunt explained in detail his plans for disposing of the surplus colored population. The President was interested, and promised his assistance in every way possible. Hunt also discussed the matter with a number of philanthropists in New York. When the advice of Washington was sought, the latter stated that thousands of colored families would welcome removal to the Soudan under favorable conditions.

The details known here are supplied by letters received from Hunt by his personal friends.

HIGHWAYMAN ROBS SCHOOLMA'AM.

SANTA ROSA, Sept. 26.—Miss Bonnie Gaines, the pretty and popular teacher of Fountain district, near Ukiah, was stopped by a high-

wayman Thursday morning and relieved of her watch chain and lunch. An alarm was given later, but so far the man has evaded capture.

The teacher lives three miles from the school and for two miles of that distance rides her bicycle the road being in good condition that far. The wheel is then placed in an old barn and the remainder of the journey is made on foot. The highwayman had seen the teacher place her wheel in that barn on previous days and he awaited her coming at that point.

On the morning of the hold-up Miss Gaines had left her valuable watch at home, and the robber, who had evidently calculated on making a haul, only secured the teacher's chain and her lunch for the noonday meal.

After the hold-up Miss Gaines attempted to mount her wheel and ride to town to report the affair to the officers, but was prevented by tramps. The teacher obtained a good description of the robber and it is believed he will be apprehended. A man answering the description later appeared in Ukiah and attempted to dispose of a watch chain for \$1.50. He stated he had purchased the chain in Petaluma to present to a lady friend, but alleged he had changed his mind.

SALESGIRL A COUNTESS.

NEW YORK, September 27.—Through her marriage to an Italian Count with a fortune of \$1,800,000, Emma Moeckel, until recently a salesgirl in a Brooklyn department store, has become the mistress of a castle on Lake Como, Italy. To visit the castle Count Mainardi Romolo Ferreri and his wife will sail on the Sardegna for Genoa next Tuesday. In the meantime they are enjoying their honeymoon in this city.

The marriage was the result of a romantic mistake. Miss Moeckel had known a man of the same name, and when she read in the newspapers that he had come into his inheritance she wrote her congratulations. The Count replied, and after a four month's correspondence he came to Brooklyn to see her. Then she found it was an entirely different person from the one she knew. The mistake made no difference, however, and after a brief courtship the Count and the salesgirl were married. The Count's democratic method of choosing his wife is probably due to his twenty years' residence in America, where at times he worked as a waiter until he was notified he was a count and a millionaire.

BECKER GETS HIS FREEDOM.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 29.—After serving a reduced seven-year term in the State penitentiary at San Quentin, liberty came early yesterday morning to Carl Becker, "The Dutchman," the "King of Forgers," the greatest bank terror of modern times, the criminal who confessed to having successfully secured nearly a million dollars in Europe and America in drafts and checks, the man who deftly altered a \$12 Bank of Woodland check to read \$22,000, and secured payment at the Nevada National Bank in San Francisco in December of 1895, and was then caught and convicted.

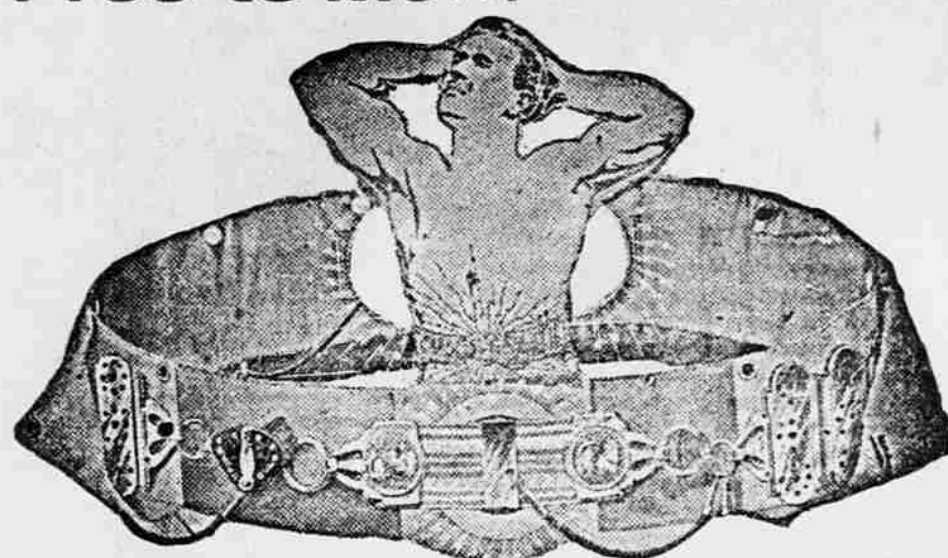
Becker has long been very reticent and has sought to avoid newspaper publicity. For that reason he chose 6 o'clock in the morning as the hour for his release, hoping in that way to avoid the curious crowd. But the liberation of so notorious a criminal could not be kept secret. Becker was approached for an interview. He simply said: "I am past 60 now, and intend to remain a free man for the rest of my life. I am fully capable of supporting my wife and myself in legitimate fashion. I shall go to New York. I hope to avoid such prominence as I have had heretofore. It is useless to question me further. I have nothing to say."

It has been repeatedly rumored that Becker was seeking a pension of \$500 a month from the American Bankers' Association, in consideration of which he would refrain from forgeries and frequently and regularly report his whereabouts to the concern.

Handwriting Expert Theodore Kytka, whose greatly enlarged photographic reproductions of Becker's raised check and of various known exemplars of Becker's handwriting practically convicted Becker, declared last night that Carl Becker is a much overrated criminal; that he can never operate successfully again; that he did not originate the scheme of raising signed checks; that bankers are now alert for raised checks, and that hereafter he can be easily convicted wherever he tries his crooked work in America.

"Becker knows the law well," said Kytka. "He operated in such a way as to baffle conviction were it not for the revelations of photographic enlarging applied to his work. A middle man known to Becker would deal with a third man unknown to Becker, and that third man would go into the country and buy a small draft on a city bank. This draft would then be given to the middle man and by the middle man to Becker. Becker would proceed to raise the draft to read many thousands. After that it would be returned to the middle man and then to the original purchaser, who would deposit it in a big city bank and then call the next day and draw out all of the money before the draft could get back to the country bank for inspection. As no one ever witnessed Becker actually raising a check; as he never personally bought a draft or presented it for payment and as he could not be convicted merely on the testimony of an accomplice he felt safe. But the camera showed up his whole method and convinced Judge and jury."

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W. E. CLARK.

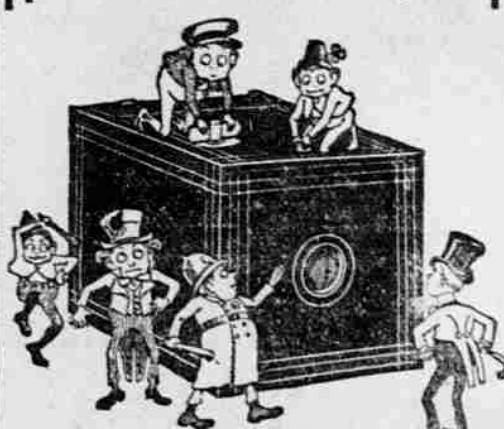
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